

country's leading field hockey scorer this past season. Kelly is also the youngest player to have ever been named to the U.S. National Team. There is no doubt that Kelly will continue her long list of accomplishments in her last season this fall.

I extend my congratulations to both Kelly Doton and Kelly Dostal for their individual and team accomplishments. Greenfield, Hatfield, and all of the First District of Massachusetts are proud of their accomplishments.

Mr. BURR. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, February 3, 2004, the resolution is considered as read for amendment and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING ST. JOHN'S UNIVERSITY ON WINNING THE 2003 NCAA DIVISION III FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of February 3, 2004, and as the designee of the majority leader, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 493) congratulating the St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, football team on winning the 2003 NCAA Division III Football National Championship, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of House Resolution 493 is as follows:

H. RES. 493

Whereas St. John's University defeated Mount Union College of Alliance, Ohio, by a score of 24-6 in the 2003 Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl on Saturday, December 20, 2003;

Whereas St. John's finished the season 14-0 and is the winningest football program all-time in Division III at 508-213-24 in their 93 seasons;

Whereas this is St. John's first national championship since 1976 and fourth in school history;

Whereas this football championship capped a season in which St. John's Coach John Gagliardi became the all-time winningest football coach in NCAA history;

Whereas Blake Elliott, St. John's senior wide receiver, was the recipient of the 2003 Gagliardi trophy as the outstanding Division III college football player;

Whereas the St. John's University Johnnies snapped Mount Union's NCAA-record 55-game winning streak in the championship game; and

Whereas three chartered planes full of loyal St. John's fans were among the 5,073 people who watched the Stagg Bowl in the freezing cold of Salem, Virginia, and many more watched the nationally televised game: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the United States House of Representatives congratulates the St. John's University, Collegeville, Minnesota, football team on winning the 2003 NCAA Division III Football National Championship.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tues-

day, February 3 of 2004, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate the St. John's University football team from Collegeville, Minnesota on their NCAA Division III National Championship.

The Johnnies were underdogs in the championship game against Mount Union College of Alliance, Ohio on December 20, 2003, because Mount Union entered the game with an NCAA record, a 55-game winning streak, and had won 109 of their 110 previous games.

But as senior wide receiver Blake Elliott, winner of the Gagliardi Trophy said, all it took was 52 guys believing, and believe they did, and so did the other players, students, professors, monks, alums like myself and my family, and proud parents in Minnesota scattered throughout the country and on that frigid field in Virginia.

The Johnnies put on quite a show for the fans of all ages. For the 3 chartered planes full of St. John's faithful who braved the Minnesota-like weather on the East Coast and the many more watching on nationally televised TV, St. John's put on a great game. They finished a perfect 14 and 0 season with a 24-6 victory in the 2003 Amos Alonzo Stagg Bowl, the Division III championship game. This team victory capped off a season that also saw Coach John Gagliardi become the all-time winningest football coach in NCAA history, earning him a trip to the White House. This is St. John's fourth national championship in school history, and highlights the tradition that has brought national attention to St. John's and its partner school, the College of St. Benedict in west central Minnesota. They are both exceptional liberal arts schools with a proud Catholic Benedictine tradition.

I am proud to have been able to have followed closely each of the last two St. John's championship seasons. I was a student for the most recent championship in 1976 and now am proud to represent St. John's in my congressional district. As an alum and a fan of St. John's football, I try to make as many games as possible. The alums, professors, monks, local fans, and students alike watched the Johnnies play football in the recently renovated Clemens Stadium, set in a beautiful natural bowl that seats about 5,000 fans; although many more attend the games, like the 13,000 fans that attended the game against Bethel College to break the all-time coach and win record, as anybody who comes to the stadium can get in.

The St. John's tradition is woven into these games, which can become more of a reunion than a mere football game, where fathers and grandfathers who played for St. John's come to watch their sons and grandsons play.

Before the game begins, the St. John's men's chorus sings the National Anthem and the Johnny Fight Song, and all former men's chorus singers, including me, get a chance to come down and join in. Every player that goes out for the football team dresses for home games and the sidelines are filled with over 150 players. John Gagliardi joked to me that St. John's is the only team that gets penalties for having 2 players with the same number on the field at the same time, because John plays everyone he can.

But the tradition at St. John's goes well beyond the football team. It extends to the classrooms and to the monastery. Players are expected to be student athletes and many of them go on to success in a wide variety of their chosen careers. In fact, during John's 51 years coaching at St. John's, no player has failed to graduate, and most do so in 4 years.

Student life at St. John's is intertwined with the monastery life, as many of the resident directors and the professors are monks living at the on-campus monastery. Monks attend the games and are said to, on more than one occasion, tell the coaching staff that if the players just get the ball close enough, they will pray it in. This partnership shows the camaraderie, team spirit, and drive that leads to the success that is alive and the students that play football for St. John's year after year, and it is one we celebrate here today.

Therefore, I once again congratulate the players, coaches, parents, and all of those associated with St. John's on the team's national championship and encourage the House to pass this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, February 3, 2004, the resolution is considered as read for amendment and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS FOR WINNING SUPER BOWL XXXVIII

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the unanimous consent request of February 3, 2004, I call up the Resolution (H. Res. 512) congratulating the New England Patriots for winning Super Bowl XXXVIII, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of House Resolution 512 is as follows:

H. RES. 512

Whereas, on February 1, 2004, at Reliant Stadium in Houston, Texas, the New England Patriots defeated the Carolina Panthers 32-29 in Super Bowl XXXVIII;

Whereas this victory is the second world championship for the Patriots in the last three years, the first being a 20-17 victory over the St. Louis Rams in Super Bowl XXXVI;

Whereas the Patriots' victory over the Panthers is the fifteenth straight victory for New England, setting franchise records for consecutive wins and most wins in a season;

Whereas Coach Bill Belichick, stressing teamwork and determination, led his players to the best record in the National Football League through the regular season with a 14-2 mark;

Whereas the Patriots' ability to win despite serious injuries is a testament to the coaching staff and the team's desire to once again hoist the Lombardi Trophy;

Whereas quarterback Tom Brady was selected as the Super Bowl's Most Valuable Player for the second time, becoming the youngest quarterback to win two Super Bowls and two Super Bowl MVP awards; and

Whereas all of New England is proud of the accomplishments of the entire Patriots organization and the dedication of the ever faithful New England fans throughout the 2003-2004 NFL season, Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives commends the World Champion New England Patriots for their extraordinary victory in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, February 3, 2004, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, before I yield myself such time as I may consume, for purposes of debate only, I yield 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and friend from New Hampshire for his graciousness in yielding to me, and I yield myself such time as I may consume. I am glad to be along with him and many of our colleagues from New England cosponsoring this resolution congratulating the New England Patriots on their second Super Bowl title in 3 years.

I have said this before, Mr. Speaker. In the profession which we have chosen and are lucky enough to have had some success in, we sometimes find ourselves being blamed for things that are not our fault. But those occasions are offset by those times when we can bathe in entirely unearned glory.

The New England Patriots, as they now are, are an excellent team that did a superb job, well coached; they dealt with injuries, they held together, compiled a superb record. And those who represent New England in Congress get to stand up here and bathe in their glory. I am grateful to them for winning the championship and for the fact that we can do that.

I do not think politicians ought to insinuate ourselves into professional sports. It has been my experience that at professional sports events, the needed ones are the fans. So we are not trying to do that. What we are doing jointly is to pay our respects to a group of very dedicated, hardworking young men.

Let us be clear. To do what any professional football team does, particularly to do what the Patriots do, requires a degree of discipline and dedication and willingness to do hard physical work in very adverse weather conditions. They are very well coached. The ownership of the team deserves credit.

I will make just one political point. I am very proud to note that the stadium in which they won so many of their games and from which they went out to win the Super Bowl championship, in the town of Foxborough, Massachusetts that I represent, was not built with public money. This is an indication that there is no need to go to the taxpayers to get money to build public stadiums. There is an ability to do that when a team is well-run and well-managed and well-owned by private capital.

So I really want just again to say how proud the people, not just of the town of Foxborough or my district or northern Massachusetts are, but all over New England, as my colleague from New Hampshire makes clear, because as the team is the New England Patriots, we had to import somebody from New Hampshire, because Massachusetts is incapable at this point just technically of bipartisanship on our own. But I really appreciate the gentleman from New Hampshire's cooperation, and congratulations to the New England Patriots for doing an important thing so well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for sponsoring this resolution saluting the New England Patriots in their second Super Bowl championship in the last 3 years, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is indeed an honor to be able to stand here tonight, Mr. Speaker, and talk not only as a fan but as a person from New England about what it means to our region to be able to salute these New England Patriots. We are always grateful in New England, having rooted for the Red Sox for so long and witnessed so many heartbreaking seasons, for well-coached, well-run, well-organized teams that win and bring home the ring.

So many individuals need to be saluted, but it is important to note that when we talk about the New England Patriots, we talk about teamwork. We talk about cooperation. We talk about individuals in high-profile positions subverting themselves to the greater good of the team, and that has always been the history of this team that had to recover from injuries, that had to recover from the loss of major free agents at the beginning of the season and still, despite those setbacks, were able to win.

But it is also important for us to note several individuals that have

made not only this season possible, but others in the past. It starts with the ownership of the New England Patriots. Mr. Bob Kraft and his sons have just done a tremendous job bringing back first-class football to New England and keeping the franchise in Massachusetts. And were it not for the Kraft ownership and all of the things that they have done to make this possible, we would not be seeing that success today.

The coaching staff led by Bill Belichick has done just a stupendous job of putting together unique individuals and making the team function as something that is greater than the sum of all of the parts.

But Bill Belichick cannot do it by himself. He has a tremendous staff in the front office all the way down to the trainers and the people that work in public relations. From the top to bottom, the Patriots' organization is a tremendously well-run organization. The players are, bar none, the best team in the league. And when Adam Vinatieri kicked that field goal, even though he had missed 2 already that afternoon, you knew that he was going to kick the third one and that we would win again.

□ 1900

Also, in need of being saluted are long time announcers Gil Santos and Gino Cappelletti, the voices of the New England Patriots who for many, many years kept the faith alive.

And perhaps the most important people that need to be celebrated are the fans of New England who have never given up on their team not only this year but for the last several years and braved the coldest of cold weather, the snowiest of snowy days, and were outnumbering the Carolina fans in Houston last week by 100 to 1.

But as we celebrate the Patriots, let us also not forget the fine teams that they beat all year, starting with the Carolina Panthers who no one gave a chance to be successful in the Super Bowl last week who played a tremendous game. It was one of the greatest games in the history of the National Football League.

The Patriots also beat two other fine teams in the playoffs: the Indianapolis Colts and the Tennessee Titans and had a tremendous regular season where they won 12 in a row and then three playoff games. Hopefully, we will continue this next year and do it one game at a time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) for yielding. And when I was over at my office and you were praising the fans who had braved the cold weather those two playoff games, I said he must be talking about me. I have been a season ticket holder since 1986. So I wanted to come to the floor and join you in giving credit to this outstanding organization.

And the interesting thing about it is when Robert Kraft and his family bought this franchise, they were literally headed to St. Louis. In fact, the Kraft family could have made a lot of money simply by allowing a group of investors from St. Louis to buy out his interest in the stadium and in the contract that the team had with the stadium at that time.

I also want to congratulate the Kraft family for the outstanding organization that they have set up, and also Coach Belichick. It is interesting there are a lot of people that criticize Bob Kraft, who went out and gave up draft choices in order to get Bill Belichick away from the New York Jets. And a lot of my colleagues who were Jets fans thought they had gotten a great deal because they got draft choices.

And Bill Belichick has done an outstanding job in terms of fostering team work. This is a team that gets introduced before games as a team. I think all of us see in professional sports a lot of things that we do not necessarily like, the sort of "me generation" of individuals getting all the credit. That does not happen on this team. And I think that sports leagues across America could learn a lot by looking at the success of this team, the fact that so few players made the Pro Bowl.

And, finally, the individual players on that team, starting with their quarterback, they exemplify the best. I know I had an opportunity to be at the White House when Tom Brady was there. A lot of people thought it was a political thing. It was not a political thing. The Patriots players contribute to the community. They are involved in the community day in and day out. And I was proud that Tom Brady was here that evening for the State of the Union.

And I am looking at next year. As my colleague acknowledged, we have two picks in the first round, two picks in the second round, one pick in third round, and two picks in the fourth round. It seems to me that we have the opportunity to have a top-notch team each and every year.

I probably have more information that we could go on. But I am glad that this resolution is before the House.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume and thank my colleague from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) for giving that wonderful description of the Patriots and the fact that he was one of the brave 70,000 people that braved well below zero weather to root on the Patriots against the Tennessee Titans.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, one of the greatest games in Super Bowl history. We all from New England, fans, everyone all across the spectrum of New England salute our Patriots.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to make the point that one of the reasons why I was able to brave the cold weather

was because I was wearing Malden Mills Polar Tec, which is a great product that you and I have worked together to try to help that company. That is why I was so warm during those games because I had Malden Mills Polar Tec, manufactured right in Lawrence, Massachusetts.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, he is very right. I wear it all the time as I climb 4,000-foot mountains. I urge passage of this resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. FRANK, and the gentleman from New Hampshire, Mr. BRADLEY, for bringing this resolution honoring the New England Patriots for their Superbowl victory to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I want to offer my own congratulations to the Patriots for winning Superbowl XXXVIII, their 2nd championship in 3 years. The team has come together again this year, and proven to us that they truly are World Champions.

While some around the Nation may know of our quarterback, Tom Brady, the majority of players on our team are not the superstars found in other cities across the country. However, we in New England know Troy Brown, Tedy Bruschi and Ty Law, not just for their individual accomplishments but for what they are a part of—a team.

Mr. Speaker, Coach Bill Belichick said it best when he reminded the faithful fans that the players "gave up a little of their individuality" for the greater goal. "That's what they did, and that's why they're champions." They have demonstrated to us and the rest of the world that winning a title isn't about statistics and breaking records, but instead about team work and focus.

In addition to the Patriots' coaches and players, the team is guided by a terrific management team. Robert and Jonathan Kraft have worked tirelessly to build a strong organization and they also deserve praise today.

I want to thank each and every player and coach on the team for showing their fans, the country and the world, that old-fashioned teamwork comes out ahead. Congratulations to the New England Patriots and to their fans.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to rise in support of H. Res. 512, congratulating the New England Patriots for winning Super Bowl XXXVIII. The Patriots victory is again cause for celebration on both coasts as fans in San Mateo, California and the San Francisco Peninsula join in celebrating native son Tom Brady, the MVP Quarterback for the Super Bowl champion Patriots.

Under the glaring lights of Reliant Stadium in Houston, and before an estimated worldwide audience of one billion viewers, Tommy Brady, as he is known in San Mateo, showed the remarkable poise and the expert leadership that his teammates and Patriot fans have come to expect. He calmly guided his team down the field toward Super Bowl victory in what may have been the greatest Super Bowl of all time.

In fact, during the game's final drive, with the game tied, and under what must have been great pressure, Tom Brady rose to the task by completing four out of five passes to set up the game-winning field goal.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to support this legislation as well as to pay tribute to Tom Brady, who from his days of flag football on

Portola Drive in San Mateo, to the fields at Juniperro Serra High, to the University of Michigan, to the National Football League and being named Most Valuable Player of Super Bowl XXXVI and XXXVIII, has always played with confidence and charisma and found success at every level. It is obvious from watching Tom Brady play that he truly loves the game of football. He always smiles, and his enthusiasm and confidence is infectious to his team. As one of his wide receivers said, "You can't say enough about that kid. He has a tremendous amount of confidence, and it rubs off on everyone else."

Now, only 26 years of age, and the youngest quarterback to have two Super Bowl MVP awards and two Super Bowl Championship rings, fans around the league anxiously await his future accomplishments. His stellar performances as well as uncanny ability to guide his teams to come from behind victories has reminded many of another quarterback with Bay area ties, former San Francisco 49er and Hall of Famer, Joe Montana.

On behalf of the city of San Mateo and football fans everywhere, I wish him continued success in his already remarkable career and strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 512.

Mr. OLIVER. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, February 1st, the New England Patriots won their second Super Bowl in 3 years. The Patriots' season was a testament to teamwork, dedication, and determination in the face of adversity. Bouncing back from an opening day loss, the Patriots came together to put forth a season that will be remembered as one of the greatest in New England history.

At no time in the season did any member of the Patriots profess to be more important than any other, and at no point did the loyal fans' support wane, even in the harshest conditions. The New England Patriots are a shining example of all that is good in sports: teamwork, sacrifice, and humility. They are deserving champions, and I am proud to join my New England colleagues in co-sponsoring this resolution honoring the Super Bowl XXXVIII Champion New England Patriots.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my enthusiastic congratulations to the New England Patriots, Super Bowl Champions for the second time in three years.

When the Patriots celebrated their first Super Bowl title in team history two years ago, the excitement that we all experienced was unparalleled. This year, with the team's second victory, we may have surpassed the joy of that first win. I think every New Englander was filled with pride yesterday, as a crowd of over 1.5 million fans turned out in chilly temperatures to fill the streets of Boston. We watched the fans on City Hall Plaza cheer as the Patriots, led by their team owner Bob Kraft, gifted Head Coach Bill Belichick, and players now known on a first name basis—such as Tom, Ty, and Adam—took to the stage.

These fans were cheering more than just a Super Bowl victory. This team of New England Patriots exemplified hard work, determination, and humility. They worked together as a team above all else, and respected all of their opponents, regardless of their records. It was this dedication that led to their amazing streak of 15 straight wins, the longest winning streak in the NFL in more than 30 years. Throughout it all, they had a keen awareness of what their quest meant to the fans of New England who

have supported them through the good years and bad ones. They were a source of joy, hope, and inspiration. We admire the Pats for their achievements and look forward to win number three.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the New England Patriots on their thrilling victory in Super Bowl XXXVIII. In a season of tremendous adversity marked by difficult early-season losses and numerous injuries, this team displayed the values of hardwork and determination that so epitomize the region from which they hail. After beginning their season with a heart-breaking defeat at the hands of the intra-division rival Buffalo Bills, the Patriots went on to win all but one of their next fifteen games, including a franchise-record twelve-game winning streak. Ignoring the seemingly relentless skeptics, the Patriots defeated a hard-nosed Tennessee Titan team and halted the high-octane Indianapolis Colts to gain a spot on the world's biggest stage in Super Bowl XXXVIII.

One again relying on the leadership of quarterback Tom Brady and the steady foot of kicker Adam Vinatieri for last-second heroics, the Patriots defeated a stubborn Carolina Panther team to earn their second Super Bowl victory in the past three years. Abiding by the values of teamwork and perseverance instilled by head coach Bill Belichick, the New England Patriots are an example to all Americans of what it means to be a true champion. In addition, I would particularly like to congratulate Mike Cloud, a resident of Rhode Island, on being part of a team that makes all of New England proud.

I hope our colleagues will join me in congratulating the Super Bowl champion New England Patriots.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, February 3, 2004, the resolution is considered read for amendment and previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OVERTIME REGULATIONS AND VETERANS

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as one of the chairmen of the two labor committees here in the House and as a veteran, I am here to denounce an effort by Big Labor to scare our Nation's veterans and service men and women into thinking the Department of Labor is out to take away their overtime. The Department of Labor is working on revisions to the regulations governing overtime pay. These regulations would provide 1.3 million more Americans with overtime and help millions of hard-working people in this country.

Let me be absolutely clear, the Department of Labor's proposed overtime

regulations do not apply to the military, and nothing in existing law or the proposed regulations suggest that being a veteran would have any effect on overtime pay. It is a sad day indeed when the men and women of our forces are exploited for political gain. Opponents of these regulations ought to be ashamed.

SECRETARY OF LABOR,
Washington, January 27, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I write to provide you with the facts to correct the record following last week's Senate floor debate on the Consolidated Appropriations Act with regard to the Department of Labor's proposed revision of the Fair Labor Standards Act's overtime exemption regulations. I also would like to thank you for your support and leadership on this important issue.

The recent allegations that military personnel and veterans will lose overtime pay, because of proposed clarifications of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) "white-collar" exemption regulations, are incorrect and harmful to the morale of veterans and of American servicemen and women. I want to assure you that military personnel and veterans are not affected by these proposed rules by virtue of their military duties or training.

First, the Part 541 "white collar exemptions" do not apply to the military. They cover only the civilian workforce.

Second, nothing in the current or proposed regulation makes any mention of veteran status. Despite claims that military training would make veterans ineligible for overtime pay, members of Congress should be clear that the Department of Labor's proposed rules will not strip any veteran of overtime eligibility.

This has been one of many criticisms intended to confuse and frighten workers about our proposal to revise the badly outdated regulations under the FLSA "white collar" exemption regulations. It is disheartening that the debate over modernizing these regulations to meet the needs of the 21st Century workforce has largely ignored the broad consensus that this rule needs substantial revision to strengthen overtime protections.

The growing ambiguities caused by time and workplace advancements have made both employers' compliance with this rule and employees' understanding of their rights increasingly difficult. More and more, employees must resort to class action lawsuits to recover their overtime pay. These workers must wait several years to have their cases adjudicated in order to get the overtime they have already earned. In fact, litigation over these rules drains nearly \$2 billion a year from the economy, costing jobs and better pay.

I hope that this latest concern will be put to rest immediately. Once again, I assure you that military duties and training or veteran status have no bearing on overtime eligibility. We hope that future debate on this important provision is more constructive. If we can provide further assistance in setting the record straight, we would be pleased to do so. The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection from the standpoint of the Administration's program to the presentation of this report.

Sincerely,

ELAINE L. CHAO.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RENZI). Under the Speaker's announced

policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ASSOCIATION HEALTH PLANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to come to the House tonight and talk about the Republican agenda for taking care of the uninsured. The uninsured remain a major problem in this country, and I think we have a unique opportunity in front of us this year for actually reducing significantly the number of uninsured in this country.

The President actually gave mention of this in his State of the Union address here a little over a week ago. There are three Republican bills out there right now that would significantly impact downward the number of uninsured of this country.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues recall we passed in this House as part of the Medicare bill the bill that would allow expansion of health savings accounts. This is an issue that is near and dear to my heart because I had an Archer MSA for a number of years back when I was in my private medical practice, and I know the power of these accounts in being able to allow an individual to build wealth and build wealth that is dedicated to their health care needs.

This is the single best way to enhance the consumer aspect of health care in this country, which I believe is an aspect that is absolutely critical.

With a health savings account, an individual can choose their own doctor. There is nothing more fundamental in this country in the private practice of medicine than being able to choose your own physician. One can consult with your physician about services that one needs. One is not consulting with an HMO board somewhere. You are actually making these decisions yourself with your physician in the treatment room. There is no question that health savings accounts allow the